



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Southern Region

USDA Forest Service-Savannah River (USFS-SR)

USFS-SR manages the natural resources of the Savannah River Site (SRS) under the terms of the Interagency Agreement DE-AI09-00SR22188/124 in support of the missions of the Department of Energy (DOE).

SRS occupies 198,344 acres in west central South Carolina. Only 15,924 acres are used for industrial missions. DOE has reserved approximately 14,000 acres, [SRS Set-Aside Program](#), to be maintained in a natural state and to receive as little management as possible. The USFS-SR manages the remaining 168,415 acres for a variety of natural resources while complementing the missions of the SRS.

The [United States Department of Energy Natural Resources Management Plan for the Savannah River Site](#) provides direction for management of these natural resources that are primarily forested and occupy approximately 90% of SRS total acres. USFS-SR manages the forested areas

- To restore ecosystems that originally occupied the SRS using several methods, including mechanical thinning and clear-cutting, reducing forest susceptibility to insects, diseases, and damage from catastrophic events, such as ice storms and high winds.
- To manage habitat, invasive species, and federally listed Threatened and Endangered species;
- And, to produce forest products.

USFS-SR also manages SRS secondary roads, boundary, and SRS wellness trails.

Under the environmental stewardship mission of SRS, USFS-SR is restoring habitats native to SRS while also improving the habitat for federally listed threatened, endangered species, as well as sensitive (TES) species. A success story of habitat management is the increasing SRS population of the [red-cockaded woodpecker](#), a federally endangered species endemic to pine forests of the southeastern United States. Despite the relatively young age of the SRS pine forest, USFS-SR and partners have implemented strategies and technologies in the longleaf pine habitat resulting in a growth from two groups of birds in 1984 to 53 groups of birds in 2010.

USFS-SR applies prescribed fire within the SRS boundary to reduce hazardous forest fuel accumulations and to restore fire dependent plant species. USFS-SR applies prescribed fire on an average of 20,000 acres annually, primarily during winter months when forest growth is dormant. With the safety of SRS employees and the public bordering SRS in mind, USFS-SR communicates within and outside SRS to prepare for possible smoke from prescribed fire. Additionally, USFS-SR maintains year-round initial wildland fire suppression capabilities.

[USDA Forest Service-Savannah River](#) manages the natural resources of the Savannah River Site for the United States Department of Energy – Savannah River under Interagency Agreement Number DE-AI09-00SR22188; P. O. Box 700, New Ellenton, SC 29809. 803.725.0006



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
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Savannah River Site